

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 and 5 are proposed to be amended. All of the pending claims 1 through 5 are presented below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please enter these claims as amended.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for obtaining information about the capacity or tendency of an oligopeptide of at most 30 amino acids long ~~or a peptide derivative thereof, or a breakdown product thereof,~~ to regulate expression of a gene comprising the steps of:

- a) contacting said oligopeptide, ~~or peptide derivative thereof, or breakdown product thereof,~~ with at least one cell; and
- b) determining the presence of a NF-kappaB/Rel protein in or derived from said at least one cell.

2. (original) The method according to claim 1 wherein said oligopeptide comprises an amino acid sequence corresponding to a fragment of a naturally occurring polypeptide.

3. (original) The method according to claim 2 wherein said naturally occurring polypeptide comprises human chorionic gonadotropic hormone (hCG).

4. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein said cell comprises an eukaryotic cell.

5. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 further comprising

- c) determining the presence of said NF-kappaB/Rel protein in or derived from a cell which has not been contacted with said oligopeptide, ~~or peptide derivative thereof, or breakdown product thereof,~~ and determining the ratio of said NF-kappaB/Rel protein found in step b) to gene product found in step c).